UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

FEE AUDITOR'S FINAL REPORT REGARDING FEE APPLICATION OF STEPTOE & JOHNSON, LLP FOR THE NINTH INTERIM PERIOD

This is the final report of Warren H. Smith & Associates, P.C., acting in its capacity as fee auditor in the above-captioned bankruptcy proceedings, regarding the <u>Interim Fee Application of Steptoe & Johnson, LLP for the Ninth Interim Period</u>.

BACKGROUND

- 1. Steptoe & Johnson, LLP ("Steptoe") was retained as special tax counsel to the Debtors. In the Application, Steptoe seeks approval of fees totaling \$66,165.50 and costs totaling \$3,505.89 for its services from April 1, 2003, through June 30, 2003.
- 2. In conducting this audit and reaching the conclusions and recommendations contained herein, we reviewed in detail the Application in its entirety, including each of the time entries included in the exhibits to the Application, for compliance with 11 U.S.C. § 330, Local Rule 2016-2 of the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, Amended Effective February 1, 2001, and the United States Trustee Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under 11 U.S.C. 330, Issued January 30, 1996, (the "Guidelines"), as well as for consistency with precedent established in the United States

Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

DISCUSSION

3. We have no objections to, or issues with, the Application, and thus we did not send an initial report to Steptoe.

CONCLUSION

4. Thus, we recommend approval of fees totaling \$66,165.50 and costs totaling \$3,505.89 for Steptoe's services from April 1, 2003, through June 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

WARREN H. SMITH & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

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FEE AUDITOR

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been served First Class United States mail to the attached service list on this 13th day of November, 2003.

Warren H. Smith

SERVICE LIST

Notice Parties

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